

REMARKS

The Action has overlooked the Preliminary Amendment of July 15, 2003, that changed claim dependence.

Various non-narrowing amendments are made that should not invoke any Festo-like limitations, including the editing of claim 4 courteously suggested in the Action and that in response to the rejection, because non-narrowing by deletion of limitations.

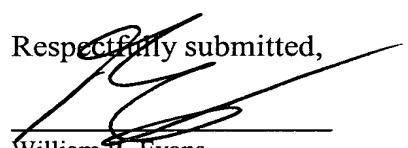
The rejection under 35 USC 103 for obviousness from the cited Rafii, et al. and Curlver patent publications are traversed, because claims 1 and 10 now depict the unique structure of the two-dimensional force sensor illustrated in Fig. 8. That is, the structure depicted in claim 1 includes substrate 30, a group of detection electrodes E11-E14 (see Fig. 17), a pair of outer electrodes E15, E16 (see fig. 17), elastic deformable body 20, displacement conductive layer(s) 26 (see the hatching part of fig. 14), operating panel 10 and detection circuit 50, 60 (see Fig. 24). New claim 9 includes a limitation that displacement conductive layers are made of a physically integrated single layer as shown in the embodiment of Fig. 14. As a matter of fact, single layer 25 is constituted by a plurality of areas which function as respective displacement electrodes opposing respective fixed detection electrodes E11-E14 and a pair of outer electrodes E15, E16.

Claim 1 defines the displacement conductive layers from a theoretical point of view and new claim 10 defines them from a practical point of view. New claim 10 depicts the structure of the two-dimensional force sensor illustrated in Fig. 8 in more detail. The first to fourth electrodes correspond to capacitance elements C11-C14 shown in Fig. 24, respectively. In the claims, dome-shaped structure 30 is not mentioned, because it is not an essential element for the operation of "rotational-operation-quantity input" procedure.

The remarkable effect caused by the structure claimed in the present claims is to reduce electric power consumption as mentioned in line 20, page 48 to line 19, page 53 of English text. That is, as shown in Fig. 21, only when an applied force F_{x-} or FF_{x-} exceeds a predetermined magnitude so that the displacement conductive layer 26 (formed on a bottom surface of projection P2) is in contact with both of the pair of outer electrodes E15 and E16, the detection circuit operates to output a rotational-operating-quantity. This unique feature is not disclosed in any references.

Reconsideration and allowance are, therefore, requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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